

United Press International

29 August 1982

7
Hatfield threatens to stall work on key military appropriations

PORTLAND, Ore.

Sen. Mark Hatfield said if Congress fails to override the president's veto of a supplemental funding bill he will be in no rush to handle defense spending requests before his Senate Appropriations Committee.

"I don't plan to be in a hurry to handle higher-level defense spending requests," said the committee chairman, who often has criticized military spending. "From my personal point of view, a continuing resolution is better because it (defense spending) is at a lower level."

The Oregon Republican, who appeared at a news conference Saturday to speak on Reagan's veto, said there are just 16 congressional days left in fiscal 1982, which ends Sept. 30. He said Congress has yet to pass any of 13 major funding bills for 1983 and unless the logjam is broken the lawmakers are likely to decide to authorize spending by a continuing resolution, which maintains funding at 1982 levels.

Hatfield said he has told Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of State George Shultz, CIA Director William Casey "and others who had very important programs in the 1983 budget" that these programs are on hold.

EXCERPTED